(ii) 3-D Seismic Surveys for better reservoir delineation and to identify deeper prospects within existing producing areas.

(iii) Faster development of new discoveries.

(iv) Sand control and water shut off jobs.

(v) Accelerated exploration for accretion of more crude oil reserves.

(vi) Engagement of consultants for field specific problems.

(vii) State of the art geoscientific studies for basin modelling.

To meet the shortfall in the crude oil requirement of Bongaigaon Refinery, action has been initiated to supply imported crude to Bongaigaon Refinery from Haldia *via* Barauni. This will be done by augmenting the capacity of the existing crude oil pipeline from Haldia to Barauni and by carrying out modifications in the existing crude oil pipeline from Barauni to Bongaigaon, to enable reverse pumping of imported crude oil.

Extra benefits offered under NELP to North Eastern region

854. DR. (SHRIMATI) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any extra benefits are offered under New Exploration and Licence Policy (NELP) for the North Eastern region;

(b) whether these benefits are considered more than enough to attract Private investors/foreign firms to undertake exploration and production activities in the States;

(c) if so, how much blocks with sq. kms, have been earmarked under NELP; and

(d) whether earmarked blocks cover nominal area than other parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) The terms and conditions for offer of

blocks under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) would apply equally to all onland areas of the country including North East region. Of the 48 blocks offered under NELP, 1999, bids were received for 27 blocks.

(c) and (d) One onland exploration block namely ARP-ONN-97/1 in Arunachal Pradesh with an area of 300 sq. km. was offered in the first offer of blocks under NELP, as against the total area of 118450 sq. km. for the 10 onland blocks. Onland areas can be offered under NELP after concurrence to the terms of NELP is received from the respective State Government.

FDI proposals submitted for oil based Industries in Assam

855. DR. (SHRIMATI) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposals submitted/operationalised for setting up Crude Oil/Natural gas based industries and oil/gas exploration activities under NELP in Assam; and

(b) if such proposals had been mooted in the State, what are actionable blue print initiated by Government to maintain the equilibrium in the regional disparities under reform measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) As the State Government of Assam has not given its concurrence to the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), no block from the State could be offered for exploration of oil and gas under NELP.